

The Villager

The Voice of the Highland Creek Community Since 1976

www.myhighlandcreek.org



The Villager XLV No. III

WINTER EDITION

FREE

COVID Claims 22 Seniors Residing at Tony Stacey Centre

The HCCA and The Villager offer the deepest condolences to the staff, residents and their family and friends. May these fine people be carried in the hearts and minds of us all to honour their passing.

Following the lead of our Centennial neighbours, let us show our support at this difficult time. Please join us by tying a white ribbon on the trees at the Tony Stacey Centre. When the residents and staff look out the window they will be reminded our community supports them.

Join us, tie a white ribbon on a tree
at the Tony Stacey Centre.
Send a message of compassion
and condolence.



Residents have their say.
Results of Questionnaire: "Highland
Creek Village Common" Community
Gathering Space ... Story on Page 10

SHADOW STUDY REVEALS

Your Home may be in the shadow of the
proposed 8-Storey Mid-rise Condo
Development at Military Trail/Kingston Rd.,
Formerly known as 'The Fieldhouse', now
named 'Highland Commons'.

Story on Page 5

**Ellesmere Bus Rapid Transit System could
adversely affect 1800+ Highland Creek Homes**
Story on Page 16

Enjoy breathing in the crisp,
cool air on your Wintery Walk?

Signs of Local Spots to get your fix!

Page 11

**Local People Bring Elements Together, Providing Food Banks
with 60,000 lbs. in Food Donations. Full Story on page 4.**



Left to Right: Billy Yam VP Highland Creek Community Association, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Mike Marchese of ItalPasta and Andrew Manson, Corporate Partnerships Daily Bread Food Bank at Food Bank Terminal located in New Toronto

HCCA Villager

Dear Readers,

This winter season has been especially challenging, without the warmth of home gatherings to offset the cold outside. Thank you to all who’ve made and continue to make this great sacrifice. Every day we’re saving lives unseen and moving closer to a restriction-free future.

Featuring in this issue of The Villager are stories that impact our community and beyond. In the centre-spread we have the results of a survey conducted on a future park location for Highland Creek. You may also read about a monumental food donation made by the HCCA to the Daily Bread food bank. Our elected officials also offer resources and messages of support in these trying times.

Our mandate is keep you updated on the latest news and developments in Highland Creek, and to this effect there will be four more issues over the course of the year. During downtime between publications, you’re welcome to keep yourself informed through the HCCA website www.myhighlandcreek.org

Best regards,
Annoj Thavalingam
Editor, The Villager

In June 1976, the first issue of The Villager, a community newsletter, was born under the auspices of the East Highland Creek Community Association and soon thereafter the West Highland Creek Community Association joined in as co-publisher. The Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) carries ‘the torch.’ The Villager serves as a medium for listing community events and activities, providing information to and from residents of Highland Creek as well as updates on matters affecting the well-being of our beautiful community.

The Villager is published 5 times per year by the Highland Creek Community Association volunteers. Our newspaper is available free of charge. 5,200 newspapers are distributed to Highland Creek households and businesses.

Submissions

Email the Editor of The Villager,
Annoj Thavalingam
highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com

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THANK YOU CONTRIBUTORS

Thank you Highland Creek community for your invaluable submissions. Your stories, poetry, events, community reports and news are of continued interest to our readers. Special Thank you to Vienna Bombardieri, David Adamson, Doug Phillips, Karm Hans, Annoj Thavalingam, MP Gary Anadasangaree, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Councillor Jennifer McKelvie, TDCSB Trustee Garry Tanuan, and TDSB Trustee Anu Sriskandarajah, Blair Anderson, Lydia Lampers-Wallner and Joy Loewen.



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Next Issues:	Deadline for Submission:
Spring	March 28th
Summer	May 28th
Fall	August 15th

Please Note: Although every effort is made to review the content of each and every article prior to publication, The Board of Directors want it be known that comments published are that of the authors and do not necessarily represent that of the Highland Creek Community Association.

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Editor: Annoj Thavalingam
Advertising: Elma Todkill
Design: Lora Tomasino
E-news: Michelle Declute

Connect:
www.myhighlandcreek.org
myhighlandcreekcommuntty@gmail.com
Instagram: [highlandcreekvillager](https://www.instagram.com/highlandcreekvillager)

HCCA Address:
Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA)
371 Old Kingston Road
Box 97501
Highland Creek M1C 4Z1

Ward 25 Scarborough-Rouge Park Elected Officials

MP Gary Anandasangaree
416-283-1414

MPP Vijay Thanigasalam
416-283-8448

Councillor Jennifer McKelvie
416-338-3771

HCCA President's Report

MESSAGE OF THANKS

I must start off by thanking my sister Marilyn who has assisted me in delivering the Villager. Even though she does not live in the area she enjoys doing it, and I explained the benefit of good healthy exercise. As well, my grandchildren Lindsay and Josh have filled in when required, for which I am grateful.

It is also certainly nice to have good neighbors. One gentleman in particular who does not speak English voluntarily comes over to shovel the snow from my driveway without being asked. Words cannot express my appreciation and thanks.

PANDEMIC

We continue to be challenged by the COVID-19 pandemic, with additional strains being identified along with a lack of and delay in delivery of the vaccine. In my previous report I alluded to the restrictions put in place and the impact the pandemic was having within our community. Our dedicated front line workers are carrying on as best they can under the circumstances, although likely reaching a point where stress under these conditions is a major concern. Even those working from their homes, who initially welcomed the idea, miss the personal interaction with colleagues. How long this will continue is difficult to say, but will likely continue until at least the fall of 2021. I am sure children welcome and look forward to returning to school and personally meeting with their friends and teachers. Seniors miss attending social activities such as card games, bowling, dancing, along with just sitting down with others over a coffee to discuss the events of the day.

In the meantime, we must all do our part in following safe practices that are in place in order to avoid contracting and spreading the COVID-19 virus. Let's all work together and stay safe.

HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (HCCA)

The HCCA remains active and because of our dedicated board and committee members along with volunteers, we are able to produce and deliver our local newsletter, The Villager. Our board holds virtual Zoom meetings on a monthly basis to address matters of interest to our residents and neighborhood. The Directors of the various portfolios are to be commended for their efforts and working in the best interest of our community. Their reports are included in this newsletter which I am sure you will enjoy reading. — And of course, we must recognize and thank those who advertise in The Villager, as their financial contributions offset the cost of producing the newsletter. So please, when possible please support those who advertise with us.

A food drive has been organized by the HCCA and many thanks to Bill Yarn for initiating this along with those who have donated the food. Thanks also to MPP Vijay Thanigasalam and his staff in assisting in the distribution of the food.

Further thanks to our local elected officials, MP Gary Anandasangaree, MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Councillor Jennifer McKelvie and School Trustees Anu Sriskandarajah (TDSB) and Garry Tanuan (TCDSB) for submitting reports and keeping our readers updated.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION – HIGHLAND CREEK BRANCH 258

Branch 258 continues to be temporarily closed due to the

COVID-19 pandemic. At this time there is no definite date as to when it will be reopening. Through the Property Committee and Executive members, the branch looks forward to moving into its new location at 305 Morrish Road that once was the Salvation Army. Discussions have been held with City Planning Officials and with Councillor Jennifer McKelvie and her staff to resolve outstanding issues.

TONY STACEY CENTRE FOR VETERANS CARE

With the approval of the Toronto Public Health, staff and residents who are eligible are currently tested every 5 days for COVID-19. The Centre has a sufficient amount of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff and visitors. As of January 26, 2021, 17 residents and 48 staff had received the 1st dose of the vaccine. Unfortunately and regrettably, to date 15 residents have succumbed to COVID-19 in 2021. This is most distressing as the Centre did not have any COVID-19 cases in 2020.

CONCLUSION

We are now amidst the cold wintery weather some Canadians, including myself, look forward to. As a reminder, don't forget your cards, chocolates and flowers on Valentine's Day for your loved ones. The following day of course is Family Day, but unfortunately at this time many families will not be able to meet as they have done in the past.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Committee Members of the HCCA, we wish you all well.

Should you wish to contact me on any items in this report I can be reached at email: dw.adamson@rogers.com or telephone (416) 281-7758

Thank you all and God bless.

David Adamson, President
Highland Creek Community Association



We couldn't do it without you.

Thank You Volunteers!

**Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who deliver
The Villager to our mailbox**

**Join Us, Deliver a street or two of
The Villager! Contact:**

Blair: longsam1943@sympatico.ca

Right: Daily Bread Food Donation Box, found in most grocery stores throughout the GTA.

Below: HCCA's Billy Yarn on tour of Daily Bread Food Terminal with Andrew Manson of Daily Bread



The Daily Bread Food Bank reports that 3x more people visit food banks since last year. Donations are required on an on-going basis. If you are able, please donate: DailyBread.ca

Need support?

FOOD ACCESS RESOURCES

*East Scarborough Storefront provides a list of local Food Access Resources

<https://thestorefront.org/covid-19-updates/>

HCCA Donates 60,000 lbs of Non-Perishable Foods

By Annoj Thavalingam

Food insecurity is experienced in all corners of our city, with dire consequences for those affected. Meals missed can cascade to affect job performance, interpersonal relationships and mental well-being. At the forefront of this struggle are our food banks, who are under extraordinary strain since the economic fallout of COVID-19.

The Daily Bread, the largest food bank in Canada, not only supplies food bank clients directly at its New Toronto location, but also distributes their goods to food banks across the city. Approximately 33% of this food goes to Scarborough.

Published reports from the Daily Bread reveal that the need for food donations has never been greater. The number of clients needing food has skyrocketed since the pandemic, with approximately three-quarters of new clients arriving due to the financial impact of COVID-19.

Through the generous contributions of ItalPasta, CW Henderson Distribution and Fast-Links Transportation, the HCCA facilitated the donation of 60,000 lbs of non-perishable foods to The Daily Bread on January 29, 2021. The goods, consisting of pasta and sauces, were graciously provided by ItalPasta, a premiere pasta manufacturer in Canada. The foods were distributed free of charge by CW Henderson Distribution, a truckload carrier with a specialty in food shipping and Fast-Links Transportation, a transportation company owned by the Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) VP Bill Yarn.

The Highland Creek Community Association (HCCA) first considered arranging for a bulk food donation during the latter half of 2020, bringing this idea to fruition with the help of several partners. Facilitated by the transportation company owned by HCCA VP Bill Yarn, Fast-Links Transportation, as well as generous donors ItalPasta and CW Henderson Distribution, 60,000 lbs

of pasta and sauces were successfully delivered to The Daily Bread on January 28, 2021.

Bill Yarn of the HCCA, as well as our MPP Vijay Thani-gasalam, were on-site to coordinate the colossal food donation. Present with them were Andrew Manson, Manager of Corporate Partnerships at the Daily Bread, and Mike Marchese, Vice President Operations at ItalPasta on hand. A special mention goes to Brian Blakeley, the HCCA Board Member that initiated contact with The Daily Bread.

Even as the food makes its way to the plates of thousands of families, the HCCA is intent on furthering its collaboration with ItalPasta and CW Henderson for more donations throughout 2021. In total, the HCCA is aiming to deliver 400,000 lbs in non-perishable goods to food banks by the year's end.

On behalf of The Villager and the HCCA, we thank ItalPasta and CW Henderson for their selfless contributions and generous support.

Thank You for your display of kindness:

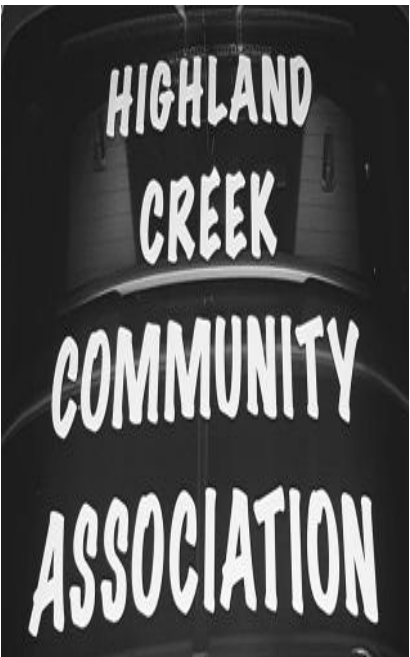


TATHAM, PEARSON LLP
Barristers & Solicitors
5524 Lawrence Ave. E.
Toronto, Ontario M1C 3B2

William G. Tatham
wgtatham@tathampearson.com

info@tathampearson.com
www.tathampearson.com

Tel: 416.284.4749
Fax: 416.284.3086



PROLONGED SHADOWS ARE DETRIMENTAL ON MANY FRONTS

Shadow Study of Proposed Condo Development

By Annoj Thavalingam

Twin eight-storey condos have been proposed for construction at the southern end of Military Trail. Once dubbed the Fieldhouse Condos new signage appearing this January 2021 name the development ‘Highland Commons’. This development would overlook both Kingston Road as well as the Highland Creek Ravine. What’s more, shadow studies released by Kohn Architects in October 2019 show that nearby homes would be subject to shadows from the condos, depending on the time of day and year.

Prolonged shadows are detrimental on many fronts: Vegetation and wildlife suffer, homes receive less natural light, and inhabitants may experience a decline in mood and well-being.

The shadow study simulated how far shadows from the condos would extend at various times of the day. Four specific days were selected for the study, the yearly solstices and equinoxes. Around the spring and fall equinoxes, select homes closest to the condos along Bonacres Crescent and Colonel Danforth Trail may be overshadowed during evenings. The shadows are most dominant though during the winter, when the evenings bring shadows looming over parts of the Village, as well as the southernmost portion of Watson Road. This may well include the Lawson overpass and Lawson road beyond.



The full extent of these shadows are unknown, as the study’s field of view was rather narrow.

The results of such studies should be relayed to affected homeowners as soon as they’re available. Transparency, where it’s due, would limit unwelcome surprises later on, and ensure equitable discussions take place around these issues before it’s too late.

The link to the study may be found below:
https://www.myhighlandcreek.org/uploads/1/3/9/4/13945722/sun_shadow_study.pdf

“We’re still standing” and as soon as it’s permitted to fully open safely, there will be celebrations. Namaste.



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ESTABLISHING BUILDING GUIDELINES FOR NEW HOMES IN OLDER ESTABLISHED AREAS



Blair Anderson
Developments HCCA

The Highland Creek Community Association is presently concerned about the construction of large homes in older established areas of Highland Creek. Similar concerns are shared by the West Rouge Community Association and The Centennial Community Recreation Association.

Recently the City of Pickering’s Council adopted “Infill and Replacement Housing in Established Neighbourhoods Guidelines”. These guidelines provide direction for the changes to the Official Plan policies and zoning regulations. The three previously mentioned Community Associations will be reaching out to Councillor McKelvie to look into similar guidelines for Ward 25.

PICKERING’S GUIDELINES

Pickering retained SGL Planning and Design Inc. to:

- Study the construction of an increasing number of houses, either as the result of a demolition and rebuild, or larger lots being severed and new homes built, that were significantly larger than existing adjacent houses. These new homes, commonly referred to as “monster homes”, created impacts to privacy, shadow, and overlook for the neighbouring homes and altered the streetscape.
- Provide direction for the preparation of appropriate official plan policies, zoning regulations and other implementation tools, and to develop design guidelines to facilitate a sensitive transition between existing houses and new con-

struction occurring in the City’s established neighbourhoods.

THE ADAPTED GUIDELINES IN PICKERING

1. **Maximum Lot Coverage 25 to 30%**
Lot coverage refers to the area of the footprint of a building relative to the area of a lot.
2. **Maximum Building Heights 9.0 metres**
Building Height refers to the vertical distance between the established grade and the roof
3. **Maximum Height of Front Entrance**
The preferred - 0.6 metres for 3 steps
The maximum - 1.2 metres for 6 steps
Front entrance height as measured from the established grade to the top of the floor inside the front entrance.
4. **Maximum Dwelling Depth**
The maximum depth of a dwelling, measured from the minimum front yard setback to the rear wall of a dwelling.
For lots with depths up to 40 metres – 17 metres
For lots greater than 40 metres – 20 metres
5. **Maximum Front Yard Setback**
Minimum – equal to the average setback of adjacent dwellings
Maximum – 1.0 metre greater than the average setback of adjacent dwellings
Front yard setback refers to the distance between the front lot line and the front wall of the dwelling.
6. **Minimum Side Yard Setback (for infill housing)**
Width of a dwelling is determined by the property width, but must have a minimum of 4.5 metres between adjacent dwellings.
7. **Maximum Width of Garage or Carport**
Maximum width is to be no greater than 50% of the overall width of the dwelling.
8. **Maximum Driveway Width**
Maximum driveway width, at street line, is 6.0 metres.

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Lydia Lampers-Wallner
UTSC-Pan Am Centre Liaison HCCA

**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO SCARBOROUGH
UPDATE**

The Winter Break Program calendar is available online to support students arriving on campus. Due to Covid restrictions, academic activities are on-line. Community members may get involved in these University projects:
Blankets for TO– an ongoing project organized by students that provide blankets and supplies to the homeless during the winter months.
Scarborough Campus Students’ Union Food Centre which addresses food insecurity in Scarborough – contribute to the UTSC Annual Fund.

TORONTO PAN AM SPORTS CENTRE UPDATE

The Pan Am Centre is closed but there is a free self-serve portal login: www.tpasc.ca
Given that we are now challenged by Covid restrictions and icy sidewalk and road conditions, this is an opportunity to develop a daily exercise routine. Here are some of the activities available with the Fitness app:
- book a reservation
- try some sample work-outs
- watch exercise demos
- access virtual personal training
- create your own workout
- stay up to date with our community, interact with fellow members through a community forum in the app.

If you have a problem accessing the app, watch a setup video or check out the “frequently asked questions” page.

REPORTER WANTED!

The Villager is looking for an intrepid reporter and photographer to join our News team! This is a volunteer position, requiring no experience whatsoever. You may express your interest by e-mail at highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com.



COMING SOON

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HCCA CORNER

HIGHLAND CREEK COMMUNITY



**43rd Division
Community Police Liaison
Joy Loewen HCCA**

joyloewen.cplc@gmail.com

One of the silver linings of Covid has been the reduction of almost all major crime indices year-over-year. Theft of motor vehicles is the only crime that has seen an increase in 2020 over 2019. As a reminder, do not leave valuables visible in your vehicle and don't let your vehicle idle unattended without using precautions. Also, keep your key fobs away from the front door area of your home, so the chip signal cannot be detected. To prevent signal theft, there are special boxes that can be purchased for storage of keys.

Moving through the new year, we will be focusing on community initiatives and goals including mental health, gun violence and traffic concerns. If any member of the community has any ideas of how we can move forward with those initiatives within the current Covid restrictions, or have any other issues or concerns, please email me at the above email address.



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215 Morrish Road, Suite 104
Scarborough, Ontario M1C 1E9
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Vijay Thanigasalam

MPP Scarborough-Rouge Park

Dear Friends & Residents,

I recognize these times have been challenging for all of us, and I would like to thank the residents of Scarborough Rouge-Park for continuing to follow public health guidelines, including staying at home.

Since the start of the pandemic, our government's top priority has been protecting the health and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. That's why we have met every stage of this pandemic with enhanced action, backed by dollars, to support long-term care homes to prevent and contain the spread of COVID-19.

Highland Creek Community Association Giving Back to the Community

I was pleased to join Bill Yarn from the HCCA, who worked in partnership with ItalPasta to deliver 60,000 lbs of food to the Toronto Daily Bread Food Bank on Friday, January 29. This organization contributes 33% of the weekly donations to feed Scarborough's Hungry. The donation will touch many Food Banks in Scarborough-Rouge Park such as Staff of Life Food Bank (65 Grand Marshall Dr.), West Hill Community Food Bank (4205 Lawrence Ave.), Malvern Food Bank (20 Sewells Rd.), and Muslim Welfare Canada (100 McLevin Ave). This tremendous act of kindness is what the Ontario Spirit is all about.



From left to right, Mike Marchese (Ital Pasta), MPP Vijay Thanigasalam, Billy Yarn (VP HCCA) on tour at Daily Bread Food Bank Terminal located in New Toronto

Funding Long-Term Care Homes to Fight COVID-19

As seniors both in our riding and across Ontario continue to be hit hardest by the pandemic, I am proud to announce that we are investing an additional \$38,482,100 to support further prevention and containment efforts in Toronto long-term care homes during the second wave of COVID-19. This includes four LTC homes in our riding, with an additional \$966,600 for Altamont Care Community; \$53,000 for Ehatore Nursing Home; \$434,600 for Extendicare Rouge Valley; and \$82,000 for Tony Stacey Centre for Veterans' Care.

Our government is also investing an additional \$150 million to support further prevention and containment efforts in all LTC homes across the province. This new funding will reduce the risk of the virus entering these homes from the community, and brings the total investment to protect LTC

homes since the start of the pandemic to \$1.38 billion.

Expanding Emergency Child Care

I am also pleased to announce that we are further expanding eligibility for the targeted emergency child care program to ad-

ditional workers who are performing critical roles across our economy and communities. This expansion takes effect on January 27.

Vaccine Rollout

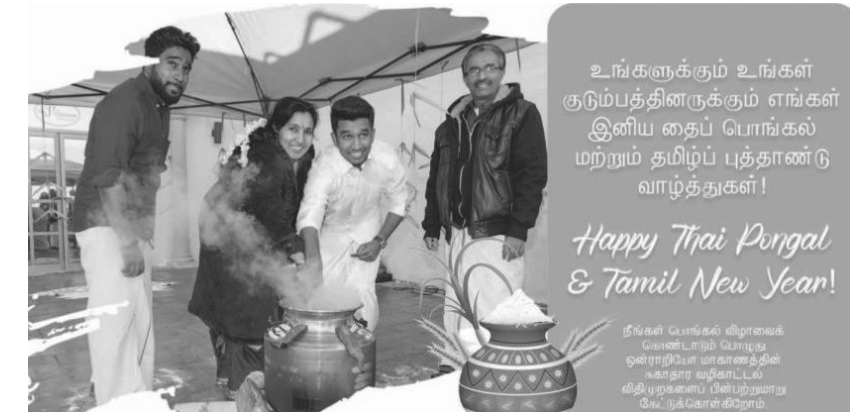
I know many of us are awaiting news about vaccinations, so I would like to provide an update on that as well. On January 19, the federal government notified the province there would be further reductions in Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine shipments. In response to significant reductions in current vaccine supplies and significant uncertainty in future supplies by the federal government, we have worked with our vaccination site partners to accelerate vaccination of our most vulnerable and continue to administer second doses based on availability.


Until we have sufficient supply of vaccines, it remains critically important that all Ontarians stay home and only go out for essential reasons. This remains the best way to protect our communities and stop the spread of this deadly virus.

February is Black History Month

Finally, February is Black History Month. On behalf of myself and my entire team, I would like to take a moment to celebrate the continuing contributions of Black Canadians to our history and culture, including right here in Scarborough-Rouge Park.

I look forward to speaking to you again soon. My office and I are always here to help. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to my office email at vijay.thanigasalam@pc.ola.org or call 416-283-8448.





VIJAY THANIGASALAM
MPP, Scarborough-Rouge Park

CONSTITUENCY OFFICE | 8130 Sheppard Ave. East, Unit 105, Scarborough, Ontario M1B 3W3
(416) 283-8448 vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

Please contact my office at (416) 283-8448 or
vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

if you need help with any provincial matters such as:

- Marriage, Birth, or Death Certificates
- Family Responsibility Office
- Ontario Student Assistance Program (OSAP)
- Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP)
- Driver's Licenses, Health Cards, or Photo ID Cards
- Health Care Issues
- Education Issues
- Senior Services

Important Numbers:

Enbridge	1-877-362-8000	FRO	416-326-1818
Grants Ontario	416-325-6691	OHIP	416-314-5518
Justice Ontario	1-866-252-0104	Toronto City Services	311
Service Ontario	416-326-1234	Toronto Hydro	416-542-8000
ODSP/Ontario Works	416-397-1000	WSIB	416-344-1000

Stress & Burnout

How to recognize the signs and what to do

Given the current climate we are living in, stress and burnout has been a topic of conversation that has come up many times. Many of us are aware that stress has negative consequences on our health and wellness. The purpose is not to necessarily eliminate stress, but to learn how to recognize the signs in our own bodies and discover tools on how to manage it.

For many of us, the effects of stress are slow and generally come on over time, eventually becoming the new normal. This makes the symptoms of stress and burnout difficult to notice.

5 Telltale signs of Stress & Burnout

Low energy - This goes beyond having a day here or there of not having enough energy. This type of low energy is persistent and you find yourself not being able to do all the tasks you once did.

Difficulty falling and/or staying asleep - The average individual should be able to fall asleep within 20-30 minutes and stay asleep for a 7-9 hour window (without waking). Sleep issues are incredibly common but it does not need to be your reality.

Low mood and/or anxiety - Our moods can go up and down depending on the day. This, however, is referring to a general persistence of low mood or anxiety - sometimes without any known reason. This may further lead to symptoms such as shortness of breath, heart palpitations,

stomach upset, diarrhea/constipation and much more.

Need for caffeine or sugar cravings - Do you find yourself needing caffeine or sugar? Almost a necessity to proceed with your day? It may be a representation of an imbalance with your stress hormone levels.

Weight gain - For a typical stress picture, weight gain is generally around the midsection and hips. This may be something that slowly creeps up. You may find that changing your diet and incorporating exercise is having little or no effect on managing weight.

If any of the above signs describe your current situation, know that there is help and support you can seek. There are also a few things you can start to incorporate into your daily life.

5 Tips and Tricks to Combat Stress & Burnout

Deep breathing - Take a few moments throughout the day and focus on 5 deep belly breaths. These moments can help us reconnect with our body and recognize areas we may be holding tension and stress. Slowly you can start to extend this tip to incorporating mindfulness and meditation techniques.

Put down your electronic devices - For many of us, turning to our phones to watch a show, play a game, scroll through social media, etc has become second nature. Take a break. Set aside electronics-free periods in the day. If you have trouble with sleep, it is extremely important to put away your devices at least 30 minutes before going to bed. Instead, incorporate other techniques to unwind.

Ask for help - This point is such an important tip. We are taught to be self-reliant, but as individuals we thrive in community. Social support is crucial for our well-being. I cannot tell you how many times patients say they feel better just by sharing their experience. Having a caring ear just to listen can make a world of difference.

Let go of the guilt - We are constantly defining what we are able to accomplish. The to-do list is always there. Some days will be more productive than others. Sometimes dinner looks like getting take-out and eating out of the container. All of it is okay. Take the time to let go.

Self-care - This is a big topic. My suggestions around self-care is incorporating activities which enrich and rejuvenate your soul. Examples can range from picking up a hobby you feel you don't have time for, going for a walk and connecting with nature, taking a bath, dancing, smelling some flowers etc. When you take care of yourself, you are performing self-care. This does not need to be complicated or involve a lot of time.

Dr. Karm Hans is a Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine at Equilibria Health Centre In Scarborough





THE VILLAGE FAMILY DENTISTRY

DR NEHA PATEL

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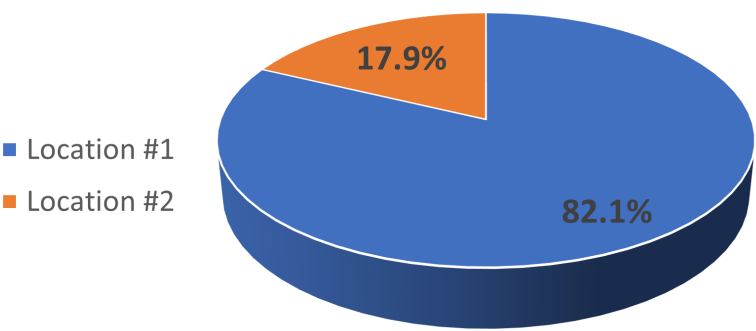
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Highland Creek Residents Have Their Say

Park Location Survey Results and Comments

The voices of
thank our surv
addition

Location Preferences for Village Common



In the previous issue of the Villager, two proposals were outlined for a f Village centre, while the other would be an enhancement of the pre-existing M could provide their input on their choice of location.

The proposed Location #1 (i.e. Village centre) is situated just south-east empty lot. Location #2 (Morrish Parkette) is a pre-existing but underutilized sp. Awan Group and Altree Developments, have each offered to set up a parkette kette location would be most preferred by its future patrons.

A total of 115 respondents answered from around Highland Creek, with a stron comments from survey respondents arguing in favour of each location, along v

Comments in support of Location #1 (near Village centre):

- “Far better right in the Village where everyone can see it & away from the traffic on Kingston Rd/Hwy 2”
- “it would renew the interest in the centre of the Village”
- “Parkettes are best situated where there is walking traffic to promote increased use. Having a parkette in the centre of the Village is far more logical to attract park users than having it located down a side street.”
- “Having the park closer to the village will truly benefit the community. It would be a gathering place for people coming to shop. It will also be more visible and will help more people discover it. With it further south on Morrish many people will not see it. We should focus on what is best to bring in a village feel.”
- “Long time in coming — let’s get it done squarely in the middle where it belongs. Visible to all the residents.”
- “A park in the centre of the village makes the most sense as a community meeting place and central hub.”
- “A Village Piazza! Fabulous for Highland Creek Village Restoration. Creates a meeting space, places the neighbourhood on the map as a destination worth visiting, supports the community and the businesses.
- “It would be ideal to build a park in a location that is easily accessible and not overshadowed by future mid-rise developments.”
- Location # 2 will be come the washroom for all the dogs living in the over crowded condo development!”
- “I like the ideas the HCCA has developed for the village. Having a central gazebo and community park would be a wonderful addition to the revitalization of the village. It could have the same charm and appeal as does Unionville and Markham. The current Morrish parkette is not central enough or visible from the commercial center of HC village. It is not located in an attractive area either. I've lived in the area for 11 years and have never been interested in visiting the Morrish parkette even though I shop and visit the village multiple times per week. Let's make the village the centre of our community again.”
- “With location #1 it would be closer to the main part of the village and I would like to see all the area around park and plazas walking-area only.”

- “I feel we should go with what Highl wants. Option 2 would eventually be Having the park at option #1 would the Village than the condo site.”
- “Swapping parcels of land (the Bill Highland Creek community. The Al story" proposal - will largely only be tary Trail and 6000 Kingston Rd. Mo the specific lands it plans to develop ery of those benefits!!!”
- “Advantages of Location#1: a) Cent close to restaurants and coffee sho used for public events as it could be the tenants of the condo rather than
- “This location is closer to the sma shopping, window shopping, etc.”
- “Having the park closer to the villa would be a gathering place for pe more visible and will help more pe on Morrish many people will not s to bring in a village feel.”
- “Location one would keep our bea traffic to the business.
- “The selection of location #1 allow in the heart of the Village. While tl larger, in due course it will be surr development and likely unused (a Parkette). “

Comments in support of Location #2 (at pre-existing Morrish Parkette):

- “Of the two, it makes most sense to care for the existing parkette. We also have the large Highland Creek Park on Ellesmere that shouldn't be forgot-ten as a community space.”
- “Number two has more of a park-like look.”
- “Park at location # 1 can be dangerous for park goers especially children. Too exposed to traffic. Too much commercial including pub on the east side.”
- “Location #2 Only that it has been an underutilized area/amenity.”
- ”Given the illustrations, it seems that this location would be more suitable for a park rather than put it in the midst of the businesses near location 1.”
- ”Utilize and enhance existing parkette”

- “As there will be an increase in number of resident sense to have a larger parcel of land. Altree's prop play structures etc are positives, and developers p kette so that it connects to the south portion of Mil value will increase with this development and with auto body shops and the like depart. Having a gre lage will encourage those passing to pause and st ston Rd. was to have been developed years ago! I years, blocked so could not even be used for park

Amenities ideas:

- “Benches, greenery, small playground for kids.”
- “Native plant enhancement, sitting area”
- “Some seating areas with shade.”
- “A water feature i.e. fountain, benches, trees, flowers and plants”
- “Lots of gazebos, picnic tables and benches, maybe a mini playground and water park for the kids, a stage shell for spring, summer and fall community performances and for a permanent gathering place for the Heritage parade”
- “Please consider paved stones, playground area, ample seating.”
- “Please consider European piazzas or West Donlands park in Toronto for inspiration.”
- “A scenic fountain would be nice, and a water fountain to drink from as well.”
- “Benches to sit. Trees. A nice place to meet people and grab a coffee and a chat.”
- “Planting of native flowers and trees along with plenty of benches and water features,

- water fountains for people and dogs. Bicycle fix-it s
- “A scenic fountain would be nice, and a water fount
- “Would be nice to get a kids play area similar to the cludes a jungle gym, a wading pool/splash pad, wa
- “Would be nice to have seating to enjoy coffee and farmers markets”
- “Would love to see a small performance stage area Maybe a nice feature like a water fountain as well? farmers markets, community events, festivals, etc.”
- “Clock tower, possibly a splash pad/fountain, a few rink in winter. Flower beds, attractive shrubs, a few
- “Two park amenities would be wonderful. New one
- “I would like to see the village brought to a beautifu centerpiece, beautiful landscaping, benches, bands
- “Planting of native flowers and trees along with pler

our residents can help shape decisions made by the City and property developers, and for this we thank all participants for their invaluable input. Please email highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com to provide additional comments or concerns. Visit myhighlandcreek.org for more comments from this survey.

future parkette in Highland Creek. One would be a newly developed parkette near the Morrish Parkette. An online survey was released with the piece, so that local residents could provide input. The location of the new parkette is at the intersection of Old Kingston and Morrish roads, currently a combination of grassy space and an asphalt road, due to its secluded location further south on Morrish Road. Two developers, the Highland Creek Village and the Highland Creek Village, are currently looking at these respective locations. The Villager has turned to its readers to see which parkette location has the most support. The majority (82%) supporting a new parkette at Location #1. Below you will find select comments from the survey with thoughts on new amenities to install.

Comments from the survey include: "The Village and Creekers have put forward and not go with what a developer has proposed. The area is surrounded by condos and not considered as safe for our children. We want to help the village stores that are close by and be more associated with the village." "The Yarn/Awan group proposal makes the most sense for the greater community benefit - which absolutely should not be the '82%' benefit the residents of whatever development takes place at 1625 Milliken. Moreover, Altree's Section 37 community benefits should be limited to the village and not appropriate an adjacent piece of land of facilitate the delivery of the village." "The location of village b) People can gather to meet and shop c) Location #1 is the best d) Location #2 too close to condo e) Location #2 difficult to be used f) Too noisy for the residents of the condo f) Most likely to be used by the community." "All businesses and would provide additional activities i.e. dining, shopping, etc."

Comments from the survey include: "The village will truly benefit the community. It will also be a place where people discover it. With it further south we can see it. We should focus on what is best for the village." "The beautiful village a village and increase the quality of life for the residents." "The village is a great place for green space to permanently be. The other location may ultimately be over-shadowed and over-shadowed by future developments. This is the case for the existing Morrish Parkette."

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PRESERVING HERITAGE

Highland Creek Heritage Properties

HERITAGE LISTED PROPERTIES

The City of Toronto Heritage Register indicates that a property may be listed to be of Cultural Heritage interest and that further evaluation of the property will take place if there is an intent to have buildings and/or other areas to be demolished or removed.

HERITAGE DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

A Heritage Designation not only promotes awareness of Heritage Properties, it also protects the features of the property that are of special interest. This includes protection from demolition or removal. Owners of heritage homes/properties must retain the style of the exterior structure and any plans for repairs or alterations must be approved by a Committee at the City level. This would hold true if any rooms within the home had been included in the designation of the property.

PROCESS TO LIST PROPERTIES

Potential Heritage Properties in Highland Creek are researched and evaluated by the Scarborough Community Preservation Heritage Committee (chaired by Rick Schofield), and if deemed worthy are sent to the Toronto Preservation Board for review and input from the public.

Should the Toronto Preservation Board recommend that the property be included in the City of Toronto Heritage Register inventory, it is put to a vote at Scarborough Council for approval, then to the City Council for debate and approval.

Once approved, the said property is listed on the City of Toronto Heritage Register.

PROCESS TO DESIGNATE PROPERTIES

If Council passes a motion to proceed with designating a property, it must notify the owner as well as the Ontario Heritage Trust and publish a “notice of intention to designate” in a local newspaper.

The notice to the owner and the Ontario Heritage Trust must include:

- the description of the property
- the statement of cultural heritage value or interest
- the description of the heritage attributes
- a notice of objection to the designation must be filed with the municipality within 30 days.

If no objections are filed with the municipality within 30 days, Council can proceed to pass a bylaw designating the property.

If an objection to the designation is filed, Council refers the objection to the Conservation Review Board for a hearing. After considering the CRB recommendation, Council can decide to go ahead with the designation or withdraw the intention to designate.



2020 POPPY CAMPAIGN ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

The Members of the Royal Canadian Legion Highland Creek Branch 258 want to say THANK YOU

to the residents and business people within our community that supported our 2020 Poppy Campaign. Through your generosity, we were able to raise a total of \$46,150. Thanks to your donations, we will be able to continue supporting our Veterans and their families in ways such as: purchasing mobility devices, providing for homeless veterans, educational bursaries, financial support for those in care facilities, installation of the necessary alterations to make a home accessible, the provisions of day-to-day comfort...the list is endless.

Richard Viles President, Branch 258

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

DESIGNATED PROPERTIES

W.J. Morrish Store	6282 Kingston Road
Centennial Church	6540 Kingston Road
Centennial Church manse	6550 Kingston Road
Adams-Hawkins House	726 Meadowvale Road
Highland Creek Public School	1410 Military Trail
Falcon Inn black walnut trees	5 & 6 Falcon Lane
	& 6170 Kingston Road
Miller-Lash estate	130 Old Kingston Road

LISTED PROPERTIES

HC Wesleyan Cemetery*	386 Old Kingston Road
St. Joseph's Cemetery*	200 Morrish Road
Knowles House	6502 Kingston Road
John Morrish House	6278 Kingston Road
Thomas Elliot House	1458 Military Trail
W.D. Morrish Store & Plaza	358 – 382 Old Kingston Road & 215-223 Morrish Road

*These cemeteries are also protected by the Cemetery Act.

Family Day in the Highland Creek Village
Councillor Jennifer McKelvie
Ward 25, Scarborough-Rouge Park

Dear Neighbours,

Family Day is a great opportunity to get outdoors for some exercise and winter fun with your household. Snowball fights, fort building, winter bird watching or a brisk walk are great activities to get exercise while following public health guidelines. A listing of all City of Toronto winter activities is available at [**www.toronto.ca/welcometowinter**](http://www.toronto.ca/welcometowinter).

For those colder days when you just want to stay cozy inside, the City has compiled a list of over 100 free recreation, exercise, arts and culture activities for all ages. You can tour a museum exhibit, watch a live concert, play interactive games or even try do-it-yourself science experiments. See the full list at [**www.toronto.ca/covid-19-stay-play-learn-at-home**](http://www.toronto.ca/covid-19-stay-play-learn-at-home).

New Roles at City Hall

In December, I was delighted to be appointed the Chair of the City's Infrastructure and Environment Committee by Mayor John Tory, along with an appointment to Mayor Tory's Executive Committee. These two new Committee responsibilities are in addition to my role serving as Chair of both Scarborough Community Council and the Toronto French Language Advisory Committee, as well as serving as a member of the Budget Committee, Toronto Transit Commission Board and the Toronto Zoo Board. My new committee positions will help further my commitments to advocate for investment in Scarborough transit and to protect and enhance our greenspaces.

2021 Toronto Transit Commission Service Enhancements

I am happy to share that throughout 2021, the TTC will deliver improved service in Highland Creek. These enhancements, implemented over the next several months, will expand express service and improve reliability while reducing wait times, trip durations and crowding on buses. Thank you to the residents who advocated for improved TTC service for the Highland Creek community.

Local Improvements include:

- 38 Highland Creek – This route will have new express service during rush hours. It will operate as local service between Rouge Hills GO Station and UTSC, and will operate as express service between UTSC and Scarborough Town Centre.
- 905 Eglinton East Express – This route will be extended to serve the Highland Creek community and replace the 116A. The route will operate as regular service between Conlins Road and UTSC, and will operate as express service between UTSC and Kennedy Station using priority bus lanes.
- 95 York Mills – This route will be extended further east to Sheppard Avenue East and Kingston Road.

Let it Snow

During a snow event, City plows are directed to clear expressways and major arterial roads after 3 cm of snow accumulation and local roads within 6 hours after a snowfall of 8 cm of snow accumulation. All local sidewalks are plowed within 48 hours after a snowfall, once we receive 2 cm of snow accumulation.

The City also has an interactive map, PlowTO,




"As the new Chair of the Infrastructure and Environment Committee, I look forward to working with my committee colleagues to support the City of Toronto's infrastructure needs and services" Councillor Jennifer

which shows live coverage of where your sidewalk and roadway plow is. To learn more, visit **www.toronto.ca/plowTO**. For immediate, non-emergency assistance with snow concerns, dial 311 to access support with damaged trees, broken watermain and snow clearing. The 311 service operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, with translation available on-call in over 180 languages.

We're Here to Work for You

*To stay in touch, please sign up for my weekly e-newsletter at **www.jennifermckelvie.ca**. You can also follow me on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter, via my handle **@McKelvieWard25**. My office continues to serve our residents. Please email me at **councillor mckelvie@toronto.ca**.*




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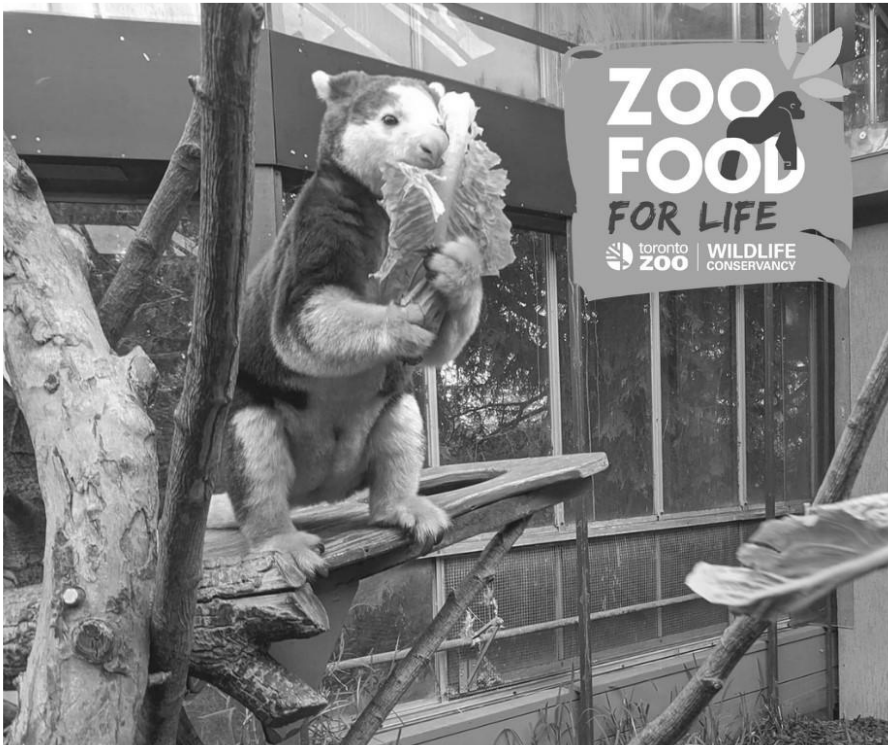
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What’s New at The Toronto Zoo?

Hi folks! I hope this update finds you warm and safe during the first few months of 2021. The uncertainty that this global pandemic continues to bring is unprecedented and your Toronto Zoo continues to adapt to our ever-changing COVID-19 world.

While this is a dynamic time, there are a few things you should know about your Zoo. In times of crisis our direction continues to be clear – our animals will be cared for and we are doing everything we can to protect and ensure the health, safety and well-being of our staff who continue to come to the Zoo every day. We understand our sacred duty to the animals in our care and the incredible Zoo team ensures that their needs are met.

We are also committed to supporting you, our local community, during these stressful and uncertain times, so we are bringing our Zoo to you to provide some much needed smiles and edutainment. Our Zoo Keepers and staff are coming to you live every day at 1 pm on Facebook to provide keeper talks and share stories about our animals. Zoo To You virtual experiences are a fun and safe way to bring the Zoo to your own learning space – and we have something for everyone! Our Zoo podcast “Wild For Life” is a great way to connect with our staff and animals, and we now have them on our website available to download. All of these, along with a number of other great resources for parents, are available at torontozoo.com/zootoyou.



A tree kangaroo eating some delicious lettuce.

There are also many ways the community can help support your Toronto Zoo from the comfort of home. Examples include making a donation to the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy, adopting a Toronto Zoo animal, becoming a monthly donor or purchasing a Toronto Zoo Membership (all Memberships will be extended for the duration of this closure).

In January, the Toronto Zoo Wildlife Conservancy launched Phase two of our **Zoo Food For Life Campaign “New Year, Same Big Appetites!”** Toronto Zoo and Terra Lumina have been closed to the public since November 23rd, 2020 until further notice and the \$1 million annual cost of food for our 5,000 animals is normally funded through our paid guest parking. Phase two of our Zoo Food For Life campaign will help to offset lost revenues and ensure funding for the Zoo’s Nutrition Program in 2021.

We hope you stay healthy through these challenging times, and take care of yourselves and each other (from a safe distance). We have already begun plans for when we can re-open our doors, and we will look forward to welcoming you all back to your Toronto Zoo as soon as it is safe to do so.

We are all in this together. Thank you for being part of our wonderful Zoo community and continuing to support your Toronto Zoo!



A red panda gazing past the camera.

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Anu Sriskandarajah Toronto District School Board Trustee Stay Healthy During Flu Season

Flu season is here again. In Canada, flu season tends to run between October and April. The Ontario government is encouraging Ontarians to avoid getting sick this flu season by getting their annual flu shot.

Toronto Public Health is recommending that whenever students and staff experience flu-like symptoms, they are sent home and do not return to school until they are no longer infectious to others. Therefore, ill students and staff should remain symptom-free (especially from vomiting and diarrhea) for at least 48 hours before returning to school.

The primary concern is for the health and safety of all students and staff. Please note that no special measures are required when there is a case of influenza in a school or daycare. However, everyone should do their part to stop the spread of the flu. As parents, you can also assist by:

- Reminding children to wash their hands often, especially after using the washroom and before and after eating;
- Reminding children to cover their sneeze and cough;
- Watching for symptoms of vomiting, diarrhea, dizziness, and/or high fever;
- Informing the school if your child is ill;
- Keeping your child at home when they are ill.

For more information, please visit the Toronto Public Health website www.toronto.ca/health, contact your family doctor or call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Anaphylaxis - Taking the Necessary Precautions

Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be life threatening. This medical condition can cause a severe reaction to specific foods or other materials, and can result in death within minutes. Although foods such as peanuts, milk, eggs, and sesame seeds are the most common cause of anaphylaxis, insect stings, medicine, or latex can also cause a reaction. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. The TDSB, in partnership with Toronto Public Health, is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy learning environment for all students and staff.

As required by Sabrina's Law, the TDSB has established policies and procedures to prevent and manage anaphylactic reactions and to reduce the risk of exposure to anaphylactic causative agents in classrooms and common school areas.

Although this may or may not affect your child's class directly, we want to raise awareness about this life-threatening condition. Students who have severe allergies to such food substances are exposed to a severe health risk when such products are consumed in their environment or shared with them. As prevention is the best approach, we ask that you speak with your child about not sharing their snacks or lunches with other students, and please do not send any snacks or lunches with your child that contain peanuts. If your child has health problems of any kind, please inform your child's teacher or office staff immediately so that the necessary health protection steps may be taken, ensuring everyone's co-operation for a safe learning environment.

Whether you are living with an allergy yourself, caring for someone who is, or concerned about people in your community, more information about life threatening allergies is available at <http://foodallergycanada.ca>.

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RESIDENTS OF HIGHLAND CREEK HAVE SPOKEN, EXPRESSING THEIR CONCERNS ON THE DSBRT PROPOSAL. *MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT YOU SEND LETTERS, PHONE YOUR MPP AND COUNCILLOR. WE HAVE TO STOP THIS DEVASTATION, DESTRUCTION AND DEVALUATION OF OUR COMMUNITY. WE CANNOT ALLOW METROLINX TO DESTROY HIGHLAND CREEK.

These are some excerpts from residents’ letters sent to our MPP, Councillor and Metrolinx.

METROLINX along with the city and provincial government are planning to build the BRT along Ellesmere Rd. It would be a GROSS misjudgment in error to even consider building this huge disruption in the middle of a residential community. The noise pollution, traffic disruption, expropriation of property and health risks of high-tension wires to accomplish this feat is unconscionable when Sheppard Ave, the next main large road north of Ellesmere, has wider four lanes, no homes but only businesses and plenty of open space. It is the logical choice.

The DSBRT will destroy the Highland Creek community as Metrolinx might as well be building a wall down Ellesmere Road. Metrolinx has stated, the existing TTC service will be reduced with the DBRT implementation, thereby negatively impacting those people who use it. It is unlikely that users will walk the increased distance, especially in extreme weather, to the closest DBRT stop. The widening of Ellesmere to 6 lanes – which will be more given stations and cycling lanes – is sheer insanity. This stretch of Ellesmere is effectively a 100% single-family residential neighbourhood. The resulting traffic on side streets and U-turns as residents try to navigate around the dedicated lanes will further negatively impact this community.

An alignment to Sheppard Ave is significantly more appropriate. Metrolinx has previously stated, the primary reason that this service is being aligned to Ellesmere is to service the University of Toronto, Scarborough campus. While the UTSC is part of the Highland Creek community, it is NOT the entire community. It seems clear that little thought or consideration has been given to impacts on the Highland Creek and broader Scarborough communities. If the UTSC did not exist where it is, I must question whether we would even be having these conversations or dealing with this proposal.

All other major transit systems go through commercial properties. I have been observing the buses that go by my house. Very few if any passengers are on them, including the Durham buses. I don’t see the increased ridership reaching 5000

daily as Metrolinx has proposed. Many employees will continue to work from home, university students will be taking more courses online. Commutes will not be as necessary.

When we get old and need help, we are [fortunately] so close to the Fire Department and the Hospital. My parents require the emergency services of the Fire Department, Ambulance and Hospital quite frequently. We are a community that cares. Now with the proposed DSBRT, land taken; lives affected; years of noisy construction; safety issues to connect Durham with Scarborough. When a life is on the line every second counts. Ridership declines now and in our future; where is the value in all that we lost to build what few will benefit from? Where is the value in the DSBRT Plan? Destruction and mayhem in our futures for what?

If this DSBRT project were to proceed, residents on the south side of Ellesmere would be unable to have a choice of driving westbound when they reverse out of their driveways - they would only be able to drive eastbound before being able to turn around. Lives [that] would be adversely impacted from such a project should be given priority consideration. We do not need to hear and watch extra-long, empty DSBRT buses running in front of our homes every 3 minutes.

Please help stop this expensive madness. Ellesmere Road is built on top of a very high water table and sandy soil. This would devastate Highland Creek, a sensitive, residential community, and would be a severe hindrance to emergency vehicles, especially during construction. Many other routes and solutions are available. ex: Dedicated red Bus/Bike Lanes, route along Sheppard Ave to Morningside Ave and then south to the University campus. This would join the future Eglinton Ave/Kingston Rd./Morningside Ave planned extension. No road widening would be required, with very little residential impact.

OTHER RESIDENTS AND BUSINESS OWNERS ALONG THIS DSBRT PROPOSED ROUTE IN AJAX AND WHITBY HAVE ALSO RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT THIS PROPOSAL.

By Douglas Phillips DSBRT Committee Member HCCA.
Send me your comments and letters through
highlandcreekvillager@gmail.com & to your elected officials:

Vijay Thanigasalam MPP
Tel: 416-283-8448
Vijay.thanigasalamco@pc.ola.org

Jennifer McKelvie, Councillor
Tel: 416-338-3771
Councillor_mckelvie@toronto.ca

For More Articles on BRT:
<https://www.myhighlandcreek.org/brt-developments.html>

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As the COVID-19 curve continues to flatten, we must remain committed to following the advice of public health officials. Wearing our masks, washing our hands, staying **physically distant, and downloading the COVID Alert app** (bit.ly/2GwBRjq) will help save lives.

In recent days, we have seen a slow but sure decrease in COVID-19 cases in our city and across the province. This is testament to the work we are all putting in to ensure that the second wave of the pandemic is crushed. It also means that we cannot let up on public health measures - always remember to wear a mask, practice physical distancing, only leave home for essential purposes, wash your hands frequently and download the COVID Alert app.

With Parliament returning to a busy first sitting week, I'm pleased to provide some important updates for our community.

New Travel Restrictions and Quarantine Requirements

Starting Sunday, January 31, non-essential trips to sun destinations - including Mexico and the Caribbean - will be cancelled until April 30.

In the coming weeks, we will be introducing mandatory COVID-19 testing at airports for people returning to Canada. Travelers will have to wait up to three days - at their own expense - at an approved hotel for their test results. Travelers with negative tests will have to quarantine at home for 14 days under increased enforcement, while those with positive tests will be transferred to another quarantine facility.

COVID-19 Vaccine Updates

Thanks to agreements with seven manufacturers developing COVID-19 vaccines - one of the world's most diverse portfolios - Canada is well positioned to provide a vaccine to every Canadian who wants one by September 2021. The federal government has delivered over 1.1 million doses of Pfizer and Moderna vaccines to the provinces and territories.

Although Pfizer deliveries have been temporarily delayed, our long-term vaccination plan remains on schedule. We are on track to receive a total of over 70 million doses by the end of September and will continue to work with the provinces and territories to ensure vaccines are administered as quickly as possible.

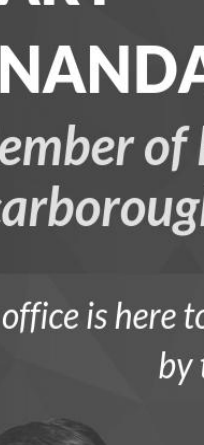
Health Canada is aware that the European Medicines Agency has recommended granting a conditional marketing authorization for the COVID-19 vaccine manufactured by AstraZeneca and Oxford University. Health Canada has been reviewing this vaccine in collaboration with the European Medicines Agency (EMA) as part of the EMA OPEN process. Health Canada is currently completing its review of the submitted data and expects to make a decision on the authorization of the AstraZeneca vaccine in the near future.

Pre-Budget Consultations Underway

Fighting and defeating COVID-19 remains our most pressing and immediate priority. The virus is still with us and still doing great harm. When our economy is ready to absorb it, we will inject targeted stimulus to jump-start new economic growth. The timing will be critical. This is why the work of identifying investments begins now. Our growth plan will create good jobs for the middle class by investing between \$70 and \$100 billion, or roughly 3 to 4 percent of our GDP, over a three-year period.

These pre-budget consultations will help inform our growth plan and the measures and investments that will make up Budget 2021. We encourage all Canadians to visit letstalkbudget2021.ca to share their views about how to best grow Canada's economy.

As always, if my team can be of any assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to send us an email at gary.anand@parl.gc.ca or give us a call at 416-283-1414. We will get through this together.



GARY ANANDASANGAREE

*Member of Parliament
Scarborough-Rouge Park*




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Constituency Office

**3- 3600 Ellesmere Road
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416.283.1414 | Gary.Anand@parl.gc.ca

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John Funnell

371 Old Kingston Road, Unit 5, Scarborough, ON M1C 1B7
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Toronto District Catholic School Board Update: Garry Tanuan

Dear Families and Friends,

As we look back and reflect on the blessings and challenges of 2020, we look forward to the New Year with greater hope, unwavering perseverance, and renewed outlook where our resilient community is made stronger and even more ready to tackle another challenging year. We hope that the challenges of the pandemic will start to diminish so we can start to mend our lives with a sense of a return to 'normalcy'. Let's apply all the lessons learned from the pandemic to continue fighting the Good Fight with all our strength, all our hearts, and all our minds.

Make every day a Family Day! Set aside some time each day for prayer and reflection, completing necessary tasks, taking rest breaks, having fun and playing with family, and above all, Thanking the Divine Providence and staying safe, staying positive and testing negative!

TPL Brainfuse: Online Homework Help: For students in grades K-12, offered daily from 2:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. Includes practice tests, support for adult learners, writing assistance, skills building and more.

Kindergarten Registration 2021: Kindergarten registration continues. If your child was born in 2017, they are eligible for Kindergarten in September 2021.

Anti-Racism Video Contest: Voices of Challenge and Change Students in grades 7 to 12 are invited to get creative and submit their video reflections about race. Group or Individual submissions accepted. Prizes will be awarded for the top three videos.

Deadline: March 5, 2021 at 5 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE: Catholic Education Week 2021 – Province-Wide Mass: His Eminence, Thomas Cardinal Collins will be celebrating the Catholic Education Week Mass scheduled for Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. EST. All students, families, board staff, trustees, and the broader Catholic community are invited to participate "virtually" in this celebration of the Eucharist. More information to follow. Return to School Information: For the latest updates, frequently asked questions, School Reopening Action Plan and more, visit: www.tcdsb.org

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Poetry Corner

A Winter Poem

A winter spell of beauty snowflakes everywhere
falling gently on the ground dancing light as air
The evening sky gives witness to this lovely country side
and the bunny paws imprinted as they scurry on to hide
Happy robins tucked away inside a warm and tidy shed
tweeting softly tunes of magic, while hanging from a thread
Lacy snowflakes dancing to the rhythm of doo wop
frilly doilies fancy, twirling, swirling with a plop
Winter tides of loveliness the sun shines her own light,
upon a farmland blessed with acres, endless beauty bright.

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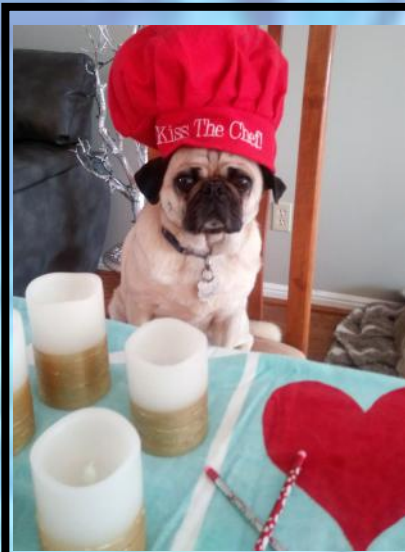
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